TIMBERLINE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE IDAHO SOFTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (June 9, 2025) — In its 40th year of honoring the nation's most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Delaney Wright of Timberline High School is the 2024-25 Gatorade Idaho Softball Player of the Year.

Gatorade Player of the Year is the top honor in high school sports, celebrating the nation's best high school athletes for their success on the field, in the classroom and in the community. The award distinguishes Wright as Idaho's best high school softball player, and she joins an impressive group of alumni that spans CEOs, coaches and star athletes such Cat Osterman (2000-01, Cypress Springs High School, Texas), Rachel Garcia (2014-15 & 2012-13, Highland High School, Calif.), Ava Brown (2022-23, Lake Creek High School, Texas) and Addisen Fisher (2023-24, Bend High School, Oregon).

The 5-foot-6 senior left-handed pitcher led the Wolves (20-6) to the No. 2 seed in the 6A state tournament and to within three wins of the state championship this past season. Wright went 17-5 in the circle with a 1.65 ERA and 252 strikeouts against just 17 walks in 135.2 innings pitched. She also batted .543 with 43 RBI and six home runs, compiling a 1.598 OPS to earn 6A Southern Idaho Conference Player of the Year honors.

Wright has volunteered locally as a foster child caregiver and at Ronald McDonald House. She has also donated her time as a coach for youth softball pitchers. "No one else in the state was more well-rounded and as dominant as Delaney," said Kylie Orr, head coach at Mountain View High School. "Delaney is also a phenomenal young woman of high character. Over the last two years, the Timberline games have been some of my favorites because facing a player like Delaney brings out the best in a team. She plays the game the right way and displays sportsmanship whether they are winning or losing."

Wright has maintained a 3.36 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play softball at Utah Tech University this fall.

The <u>Gatorade Player of the Year</u> program annually recognizes one winner in the District of Columbia and each of the 50 states across 12 different high school sports – football, girls volleyball, boys and girls cross country, boys and girls basketball, boys and girls soccer, baseball, softball, and boys and girls track & field – and awards one National Player of the Year in each sport. The selection process is administered by the Gatorade Player of the Year Selection Committee, which leverages experts including coaches, scouts, media and others as sources to help evaluate and determine the state winners in each sport.

As part of Gatorade's commitment to breaking down barriers in sport, every Player of the Year also receives a grant to donate to a social impact partner. To date, the Gatorade Player of the Year program has provided more than \$5.6 million in grants to winners across more than 2,000 organizations.

To learn more about the Gatorade Player of the Year program, check out past winners or to nominate studentathletes, visit <u>playeroftheyear.gatorade.com</u> or follow us on social media on Instagram at <u>instagram.com/Gatorade</u>, Facebook at <u>facebook.com/GatoradePOY</u> and X (Twitter) at <u>x.com/Gatorade</u>.

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